

# HONORING MS. PRISSY GRACE ON HER RETIREMENT

## HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Prissy Grace, who has represented members of the National Association of Letter Carriers, on announcing her retirement. Ms. Grace was born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1943, and started with the Humble Post Office in 1973. The National Association of Letter Carriers has recognized her dedication by electing her as a union steward, the first woman Member of the Year, the first woman full-time officer, in 1983, and the first woman president of their union, in 1998, and again in 2002. She was truly a pioneer and blazed a trail that women will be following for generations to come.

Ms. Grace once forced a postmaster, who belonged to the Klu Klux Klan, to integrate his station. She defended workers who refused to work in unsafe and dangerous conditions. She worked to turn a credit union, in receivership, into one of the strongest financial institutions in the State. In many other ways, too numerous to list here, she has improved the life of all the postal workers and their families in the Houston area. Her decades of service have generated the respect and admiration of the union members and Post Office management.

Not only was she a tireless defender of postal workers, but as a single mother, she raised three children who each went on to graduate from college. If ever an individual embodied the ideals of family values, freedom and feminism, she is this individual. She is also a good friend of my family and of working people in our country.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Ms. Prissy Grace, for her distinguished service to the National Association of Letter Carriers, and I congratulate her on announcing her retirement.

# CONGRATULATING ROBERT UGUCCIONI UPON HIS RETIRE- MENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE POCONO MOUNTAIN VA- CATION BUREAU

## HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Uguccioni, who is retiring after an illustrious career with the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau where he served for more than 40 years as its executive director.

Mr. Uguccioni spent several years early in his life in the Lake Wallenpaupack region. After graduating from Hawley High School, he entered the United States Air Force where he served 4 years supervising a material control department in Japan.

Upon returning to the Pocono Mountains, he was hired as public relations director for the Lake Wallenpaupack Association and then the Pike County Tourist Promotion Agency.

In 1967, he became executive director of the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau which spans four counties including Monroe, Pike, Wayne, and Carbon and is the largest tourist promotion agency of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Uguccioni represents nearly 800 members and associate members in promoting the Pocono region as a travel destination. He represents the area nationally and on the State level working toward favorable tourism legislation, government-sponsored advertising programs for tourism as well as in all facets of the tourism industry affecting the Poconos and the State.

Mr. Uguccioni serves or served on a host of boards of directors of tourism related organizations and is a past president of the Pennsylvania Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

On the national level, Mr. Uguccioni is involved with the American Bus Association, the American Culinary Association, the American Hotel and Motel Association, the American Society of Association Executives, the National Tour Association, the Travel Industry Association of America, National Travel Marketing Task Force, the Federal Administration Tourist Advisory Council and he is a national member of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Uguccioni for many years of service to the travel and tourism industry and in extending to him best wishes for a well-deserved retirement. Mr. Uguccioni's contributions to the travel and tourism industries have made a major impact on our regional, State, and national economies and have helped to create many job opportunities that have improved the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania as well as the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT KENNETH R. BOOKER

## HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, November 4, 2007, the town of Vevay, Indiana, tragically lost their first son in Iraq. SGT Kenneth R. Booker died from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device attack while on patrol in his Stryker armored vehicle in Mukhisa, Iraq.

After graduating from Switzerland County High School in 2000, Kenneth enlisted in the Army. He had already served in Afghanistan and Iraq—celebrating his 21st and 22nd birthdays respectively while serving overseas—before being deployed to Mukhisa, Iraq.

At one point, Sergeant Booker was assigned to military intelligence, but did not like being stuck behind a desk. He requested a transfer back to infantry duty, joining a Stryker Brigade Combat Unit. Sergeant Booker was well aware that his new unit was destined for Iraq.

Described by loved ones as having a tremendous sense of humor, constantly had fun, was good natured, and kind; Sergeant Booker was, simply put, a "wonderful person."

The day after Sergeant Booker's death, his mother, Becky Graham, sent a Christmas care

package to her son, unknowing that he had been killed the previous day. In the care package she included a note to her son stating that if he could not be home for Christmas, Christmas would come to him.

Sergeant Booker's father always had faith that his son would be safe, but that even the best of soldiers are killed in the line of duty.

Sergeant Kenneth R. Booker was a true hero. I, with Sergeant Booker's family, the town of Vevay, and the State of Indiana mourn this brave Hoosier's premature death. His friends and loved ones are in my prayers.

# CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY'S TARTAN RACING TEAM

## HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carnegie Mellon University's Tartan Racing Team and its autonomous driving robot vehicle, "Boss," on placing first in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Urban Challenge, held November 3, 2007 in Victorville, California.

This contest pitted 11 autonomous vehicles against each other on a course of suburban and urban roadways. Its goal was to help develop robotics technology that can keep military personnel out of harm's way and prevent civilian automotive accidents.

Boss was the fastest of the competitors by a large margin, averaging 14 miles per hour over the approximately 55 mile course and finishing 20 minutes ahead of the second-place finisher.

Carnegie Mellon University's Tartan Racing Team has been working hard to produce revolutionary new robots that can dramatically improve driver safety. To accomplish these goals, Team Leader Dr. William "Red" Whitaker has put together a team of researchers, faculty and staff that is unparalleled in the robotics world.

I want to recognize each of these outstanding individuals by name. They are Joshua Anhalt, Hong S. Bae, Drew Bagnell, Christopher Baker, Bob Bittner, Thomas Brown, George Clancy, M. N. Clark, Dominic Dagradi, Michael Darms, Daniel Demitrich, John Dolan, Dave Duggins, Dave Ferguson, Tugrul Galatali, Michele Gittleman, Sam Harbaugh, Martial Hebert, Tom Howard, Alonzo Kelly, David Kohanbash, Maxim Likhachev, Bakhtiar Litkouhi, Nick Miller, Jim Nickolaou, Kevin Peterson, Brian Pilnick, Raj Rajkumar, Paul Rybski, Varsha Sadekar, Bryan Salesky, Sebastian Scherer, Ed Schlesinger, Young-Woo Seo, Bob Shafto, Todd Shupe, Reid Simmons, Sanjiv Singh, Jarrod Snider, Spencer Spiker, Anthony Stentz, Josh Struble, Evan Tahler, Chris Urmson, Ziv Wolkowicki, Vincent Zeng, Shuqing Zeng, Wende Zhang and Jason Ziglar.

The Tartan Racing Team's success must also be credited to its relationship with its sponsors. The longstanding Carnegie Mellon-GM Collaborative Research Lab brings hardware integration and system engineering skills to the team, for example. Tartan Racing's other partners include Caterpillar, Continental AG, Intel, Google, Applanix, TeleAtlas, Vector, Ibeo, Mobileye, CarSim, CleanPower Resources, MA/COM, NetApp, Vector CANTech